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10/6/76

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CONTROL: 6547

5 Oct 76

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TELEGRAM

 INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652: TAGS: SUBJECT:	FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES GDS PFOR, SHUM, AR, US Call on Acting Foreign Minister	CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED] ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044) U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS Margaret P. Grafeld, Director (X) Release () Excise () Deny Exemption(s): Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full () Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to Date Declassify on Reason
ACTION:	Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE [REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6547	
REF	Buenos Aires 6426 1. At his request, I called on Acting FonMin Allara last evening. He had a number of points to take up. First was letter from Congressman Harkin to President Videla mentioned by FonMin Guzzetti at airport (see reftel). Allara said President Videla was inclined not to answer it. Allara then asked my advice. After reading letter (text of which being pouched to Dept), I noted that letter was outside diplomatic norms and probably violated constitutional division of powers. Decision as to what to do with it was of course theirs, but on personal basis my advice would be not to answer it directly; rather, they should have their Ambassador in Washington first check with Department and then, if latter had no objections, to call on Congressman Harkin and discuss matter personally. 2. Allara thanked me for personal counsel and indicated President	
DRAFTED BY: POL:WSSmith:cc	DRAFTING DATE 10/5/76	TEL. EXT. 128 CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB:RCHill
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 OPTIONAL FORM 153
 (Formerly FS-413)
 January 1975

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[may wish to see me re letter "in a few days"--thus indicating]
there may be no immediate disposition of letter. I asked
if it were true, as I had read in press, that some 56
American congressmen had written President Videla on question
of anti-semitism in Argentina. Allara promised to confirm
with President and let me know soonest.

3. Next point was Patricia Erb. Allara said decree would be
signed shortly (indeed, apparently it had been signed in
Interior Ministry just before I called at Foreign Ministry)
and she would be expelled within day or two (she is to be
expelled on Braniff flight tonight, Oct 5). He noted that
expulsion had been difficult decision since Erb admitted involve-
ment in PRT (political arm of ERP), one of the very organizations
Armed Forces were making great sacrifices in effort to control.
Despite her guilt, GOA did not wish case to perturb relations
with US. Thus, he emphasized, fact that she being expelled
resulted solely from value GOA places on its relations with US.
To make certain there no doubt concerning her involvement, he gave
me handwritten and signed copies of her statement admitting member-
ship in PRT (Copies being pouched to Department).

4. Third point had to do with Fraser Subcommittee hearing. Allara
said GOA disturbed by some of Subcommittee's allegations reported
in press and especially so in view of certain of the witnesses
who were themselves involved in subversion. He then handed me
[biographic data on Gustavo Roca, Lucio Claudio Garzon Macedo and]

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[Rodolfo Puiggros, outlining their involvement with subversive groups.]

5. Allara said GOA surprised by allegations concerning anti-semitism, especially as they came almost at same time President Videla was sitting down to lunch with number of religious leaders including rabbi. He said these religious leaders had agreed that GOA taking effective measures to control any manifestations of anti-semitism and to assure freedom of religious expression generally. There was anti-semitism in Argentina, Allara admitted, just as there was in US. But problem was being greatly exaggerated abroad. Further, it did not reflect attitude of GOA. On contrary, GOA was taking measures to put an end to it, just as USG was taking measures to end discrimination against blacks in US.

6. Allara then handed me memo, which, in effect, consisted of talking points for what he had just said to me re Fraser hearings. Memo had been prepared for his own background, he said, and had no official standing. I asked if I should take his references to hearing as a verbal protest. He replied negatively. This was not a protest; rather, he wished to discuss hearings in spirit of collaboration and cooperation. He was giving^{me} memo in same spirit. Last paragraph of memo read: "GOA wishes to transmit to USG its concern over this action which affects our country and its authorities, appreciating that efforts to normalize the situation will contribute to strengthening the friendship

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existing between our two countries."

7. Final point, Allara said, was that they had received report from Ambassador Musich on Oct 2 indicating US would apply Harkin amendment in upcoming vote in IDB on 30 million dollar loan to Argentina. Allara asked if this true. I said I had no information at all on matter and would have to query Dept of State. (Is this same loan referred to in State 245400?)

8. I suggested to Allara that there might be some merit in getting various members of our staffs together to go over human rights issue once again, so that we could explain to them not only legislation but how problem is perceived in US and they, in turn, could explain more fully their position to us. It might not change situation, but at least we could be sure we understood one another's positions and thus, in my view, was worth the effort. Allara agreed that idea had merit and said he would be in touch with me shortly.

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